

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

- Claims 2-10, 12-15, and 17-19 are pending in the Application after entry of this amendment.
- Claims 1, 7-10, 11 and 15-16 stand rejected by the Examiner.
- Claims 2-6, 12-14, and 17-19 are objected to by Examiner.
- Claims 2, 7-10, 12, 15 and 17 are amended by Applicant.
- Claims 1, 11 and 16 are cancelled by Applicant.

Allowable Subject Matter and Claim Amendments

Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for identification of allowable subject matter in Claims 2-6, 12-14, and 17-19. Applicant amends Claims 2, 12 and 17 to overcome Examiner's objection by rewriting the claims in independent form. After entry of this amendment, dependent Claims 3-10, 13-15 and 18-19 depend on now-allowable independent Claims 2, 12 and 17 respectively. Applicant cancels Claims 1, 11 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amendment to the Specification

Responsive to Examiners request, Applicant amends paragraph 0028 to change the designation "54A-54D" with the designation "56A-56D". Applicant amends similar typographic errors in paragraphs 0025, 0026, 0027, 0031 and 0032. Applicant submits that this amendment introduces no new matter to the present patent application.

Amendment to the Drawing

Responsive to Examiners request, Applicant amends Figure 3 to replace the designation "58A" with the designation "56A". Applicant submits that this amendment introduces no new matter to the present patent application.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-3951 / 303078.01
Application No.: 10/603,390
Office Action Dated: 8/18/2004

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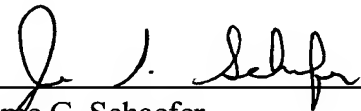
Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

Claims 1, 7-10, 11, 15 and 16 stand rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,612,736 to Vogeley et al. in view of the Examiners knowledge of one skilled in the art. Applicant has cancelled Claims 1, 11, and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant has amended Claims 7-10 and 15 to refer to now-allowable independent claims.

Conclusion

Applicants accept the identification of Claims 2-6, 12-14, and 17-19 of the present Application as being allowable subject matter. Applicants have placed Claims 2, 12 and 17 into independent form which provide basis for all pending dependent claims. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested for all pending claims.

Date: September 10, 2004



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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 3. The sheet, which includes Figure 3, replaces the original sheet including Figure 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet